

Discovery: extracts from bryozoan *Securiflustra securifrons*, Cytotoxic agents.

Significance: indoline halogenation and electrophilic character at C2 cooperatively enhance activity, but the mechanism of action and intracellular target of the molecules is not known.

Synthetical challenge: an unstable cis-enamide, a neopentylic secondary alkyl chloride, a basic haloimidazole and a labile halogenated indoline residue.

Highlight in the route: cascade sequence to construct the key skeleton.



Herzon et. al. Science 2024, 383, 849-854.

Retrosynthetic Analysis:





BOM Protection:





Methylation:





Bromination:





Stille Coupling:





Bromination:





Nitrile Reduction:





Horner-Wadsworth-Emmons Reaction (Masamune-Roush Modification):













Alkylation:





Elimination-Michael Addition-Isomerization Cascade:





Nitro Group Reduction:

Mechanism unknown:

- 1. NH_2 proton source is $B_2(OH)_4$ (suggested by deuterium labelling)
- 2. Possibly involves a radical mechanism. (indicated by TEMPO inhibition)

J. Org. Chem. 2022, 87,910–919.



Hydrogenation:





Sandmeyer Reaction:





Nitrene Insertion:





BOM Deprotection/Aromatization:





BOM Deprotection:





Nitrene Insertion:





Oxidative Cyclization:





BOM Deprotection:



